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Landmine Activities for Victims of the Conflict in Colombia

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MERCY CORPS

USAID/Colombia

Program Summary

Grant Amount: \$3,799,935

Program Period: Aug. 28, 2008 – Aug. 27, 2011

Geographic Coverage: 22 departments total of which six priority departments include Antioquia, Norte Santander, Nariño, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta

Number of Beneficiaries: 600 landmine survivors, 60,890 total including PWDs

Partner Organizations: Main Partner - Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (CCCM); Other Partners and Cooperation Organizations - International Committee of the Red Cross; Corporación Paz y Democracia; Hospital Universitario de Nariño; Hospital María Inmaculada; Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA); Universidad Don Bosco (El Salvador)

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The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the
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Acronyms

Acción Social	Social Action Program of the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia
ACIN	Association of Indigenous Cabildos of Northern Cauca (Asociación de Cabildos de Norte de Cauca)
CCCM	Colombian Campaign against Mines (Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas)
COP	Colombian Pesos
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
EPS	Empresa Prestadora de Salud – Health Provider Enterprise
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FOSYGA	Social Solidarity Guarantee Fund
GOC	Government of Colombia
HUDN	University Hospital of Nariño
ICBF	Colombian Family Welfare Institute
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDESAC	Instituto Departamental de Salud de Caquetá – Departmental Health Institute of Caquetá
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
INVIMA	Instituto Nacional de Vigilancia de Medicamentos – National Institute for Drug Surveillance
ISPO	International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MC	Mercy Corps
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OAS	Organization for American States
PAICMA	Presidential Program for Integrated Action Against Antipersonnel Mines
P&O	Prosthetic and Orthotic
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
SENA	National Learning Service
UDB	Universidad Don Bosco
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UXO	Unexploded Ordinance

Executive Summary & Key Achievements

During this quarter, Mercy Corps and partners – the Colombian Campaign against Landmines, Universidad Don Bosco and the Departmental Hospitals of Nariño and Caquetá, among others – served over 8,900 beneficiaries and strengthened nearly 30 organizations in the departments of Antioquia, Cauca, Caquetá, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander.

Health and Rehabilitation. More than 3,500 persons with disabilities accessed high quality rehabilitation services from the Rehabilitation Centers in Nariño and Caquetá, while 72 landmine survivors were evaluated for their physical and occupational capacity through medical, psychological and rehabilitation assessments in Cauca and Norte de Santander. A total of 110 community members from the department of Caquetá improved their abilities to respond to emergencies through Community First Aid Training workshops. These trainings increased the capacity of communities to respond to landmine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) related emergencies.

Socio-Economic Integration. This component provided 94 beneficiaries access to seed capital in the departments of Cauca, Caquetá, Meta, Nariño and Antioquia. In preparation for this activity, Mercy Corps and partners 1) carried out health and occupational assessments of all beneficiaries; 2) provided training in entrepreneurship; 3) helped with the development of investment and business plans; and 4) facilitated the negotiation of strategic agreements with local authorities and the private sector in every municipality.

Finally, Mercy Corps supported the implementation of public policy for the assistance of landmine survivors and other vulnerable populations, through specially-tailored workshops for healthcare providers in Nariño, Norte de Santander and Caquetá. In this sense, Mercy Corps and CCCM helped governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to identify the health needs of landmine survivors and measures that the government should undertake to ensure that those needs are fulfilled.

1. Indicators

1.1. Leahy Fund Indicators for this quarter

Indicator	2009-2010 Cumul.	Achievements Q2Y'11	Cumulative 2011	2009-2011 Cumul.
Number of persons trained	712	78	326	1.038
Number of persons served	10.177	203	203	10.380
Number of institutions strengthened	58	32	48	110

1.2. Mission Indicators for this Quarter

Performance Indicators	LoP Goal	2011 (AWP target)	2009-2010 Cum m.	Q2FY'11	Q2(AWP Target)	Q2/AWP Goal %	Cumm. 2011	2009-2011 Cum m.	% Cum m./LoP Adj
1. Vulnerable persons benefited	17.160	5.259	11.901	1.209	0	n.a	15.482	27.383	159,6%
IDPs benefitted	-	-	303	162	0	n.a	260	563	n.a
Landmine survivors benefitted	600	0	904	85	0	n.a	85	989	164,8%
Other persons with disabilities	16.560	5.563	10.997	1.124	0	n.a	15.397	26.394	159,4%
Afro-Colombians assisted	18	0	60	9	0	n.a	21	81	450,0%
Indigenous assisted	18	0	74	96	0	n.a	102	176	977,8%
2. Socio-Economic reintegration	370	174	196	155	0	n.a	223	419	113,3%
Jobs created	175	45	130	146	0	n.a	214	344	196,7%
Jobs strengthened	195	129	66	9	0	n.a	9	75	38,4%
Beneficiaries graduating from vocational training	33	27	6	6	0	n.a	8	14	42,4%
Beneficiaries with access to education	85	64	21	28	0	n.a	163	184	216,5%
3. Health	38.209	0	50.684	7.340	0	n.a	57.736	108.420	283,8%
Beneficiaries with access to health care	534	0	541	43	0	n.a	103	644	120,6%
Beneficiaries with access to rehabilitation services (survivors + family members+ other persons with disabilities)**	38.209	0	50.684	7.340	0	n.a	57.736	108.420	283,8%
4. Public Policy	720	265	455	587	0	n.a	587	1.042	144,7%
Persons benefited from institutional strengthening	720	265	455	587	0	n.a	587	1.042	144,7%
5. Other Indicators									
Private sector funds leveraged (US \$000) ⁽¹⁾	-	-	\$ 108,0	\$ 0,0	\$ 0,0	n.a	\$ 0,0	\$ 108,0	n.a
Public Sector funds leveraged (US \$000)	-	-	\$ 14,8	\$ 45,6	\$ 0,0	n.a	\$ 269,2	\$ 284,1	n.a
Women beneficiaries	2.768	564	2.204	426	0	n.a	910	3.114	112,5%
Men beneficiaries	10.397	0	14.379	0	0	n.a	0	14.379	138,3%
Children beneficiaries	2.768	1.654	1.114	52	0	n.a	52	1.166	42,1%
People trained	1.890	1.178	712	78	0	n.a	326	1.038	54,9%

1.3. Program Indicators for this Quarter

Indicator	Description of Indicator	LoP Goal	Achievements Q2FY'11	Cumulative 2009-2011	% of Adjusted LoP
1	Number of persons from mine/armed conflict affected communities that increase their capacity as first responders to mines/UXO and other ERW related emergencies.	630	110	593	94%
2	Number of landmine survivors, people with disabilities, and other victims of armed conflict who access rehabilitation services at the two new rehabilitation centers established in Caquetá and Nariño.	38.209	7.340	108.420	284%
3	Number of health care staff employed by the Hospital Maria Inmaculada and Hospital Universitario de Nariño rehabilitation centers that have been trained in specific needs of beneficiaries and that provide assistance.	30	0	39	130%
4	Number of Colombian P&O technicians trained and certified as Cat II technicians by ISPO.	30	0	30	100%
5	SENA has the technical capacity and suitable methodologies to train new P&O technicians that comply with International quality standards by ISPO.	3	0	3	100%
6	Number of socioeconomic working groups established and coordinating activities in order to strengthen socioeconomic initiatives with landmine survivors.	6	0	4	67%
7	Number of landmine survivors and their families that access income generation initiatives that improve their quality of life.	200	95	149	75%
8	Number of Departmental Committees for Integrated Mine Action that have defined work plans and information flow charts for integrated assistance to landmine survivors and advocacy related to mine action public policies.	6	0	5	83%
9	Number of health care providers that improve management practices thereby increasing access to health care and rehabilitation services to landmine survivors, victims of armed conflict and other people with disabilities.	6	18	41	683%

2. Progress Towards Objectives

Program Objectives are outlined below by Result and Activity with progress made between January 1st and March 31st, 2011.

Objective 1: Landmine survivors, victims of armed conflict and other persons with disabilities in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander have better quality and access to rehabilitation services by the end of the Program (Sept. 2011)

Result 1.1. 332 leaders from landmine and armed conflict affected communities in Antioquia, Caquetá and Nariño, have an increased capacity as first responders to emergencies.

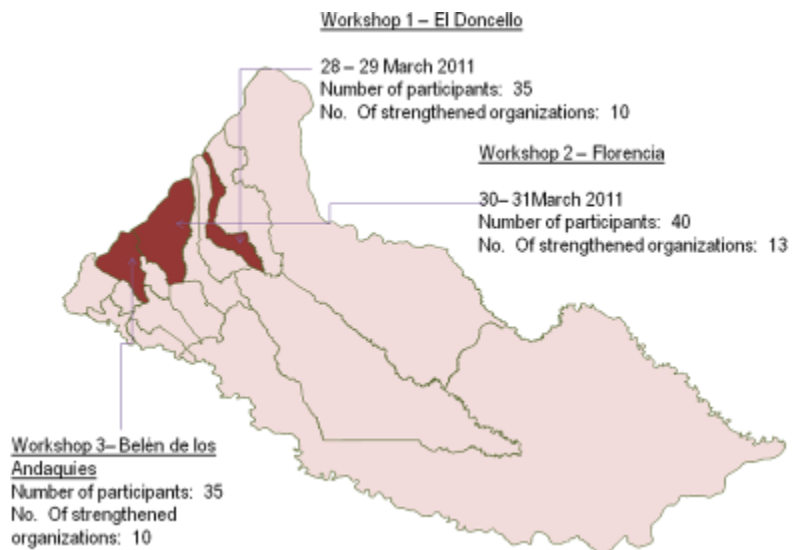
Activity 1.1.1. Improve the capacity to respond to emergencies caused by mines, IED (Improvised Explosive Devices), UXO (Un-Exploded Ordinance) and other explosive remnants of war, through first aid participatory workshops with affected communities.

In order to promote complementary cooperation and sustainability of the Program's activities, Mercy Corps held coordination meetings with the Caquetá Departmental Institute of Health (IDESAC). Staff from Mercy Corps and CCCM met with the Social Development Division of the Institute on three occasions, to review the main objectives and projected outputs of the First Aid workshops. The IDESAC demonstrated its commitment in the following ways:

1. Instituted active participation of field health personnel as they are the first responders to assist landmine victims.
2. Created definitions for participant selection criteria and supported contacting community members.
3. Provided Public Health facilities for trainings and copies of training materials.

Once preparations were completed, Mercy Corps, in partnership with the CCCM and the IDESAC, facilitated three Community First Aid workshops. A total of 110 people from 16 municipalities were trained in the municipalities of El Doncello, Florencia and Belén de los Andaquíes. The agenda for all workshops included the following themes:

1. Mine action basic concepts
2. Design of local evacuation and assistance routes for landmine victims
3. First Aid basic knowledge
4. Landmine Accident simulations – evaluation practices, attitudes and knowledge
5. Simulation results evaluation
6. Development of Action Plan proposals



Although workshop participants were selected based on their previous knowledge and skills, it was found that most participants did not have the basic skills to respond to emergencies caused by explosive devices. Due to this situation, workshop trainers were required to put in additional effort resulting in the redesign of several activities. Mercy Corps and CCCM selected the best location possible and ensured that training was well coordinated.

However, Mercy Corps and CCCM concluded that community structures and local support to respond to emergencies still require further community-level capacity-building.

It is important to highlight participant responsiveness during the simulation activities, which provided opportunities for the practical application of skills and knowledge learned during the workshops.



Workshop No. 1 – El Doncello (Northern Region)

Mercy Corps, the CCCM and IDESAC convened with community members and organizations from the municipalities of El Doncello, Paujil, Puerto Rico, San Vicente, and Cartagena del Chairá. A total of 35 persons from 27 landmine affected communities participated during the two-day workshop March 28th and 29th at the Doncello Municipal Hospital. All community members participated enthusiastically in the workshops.

Workshop No. 2 – Florencia (Central Region)

A total of 40 community members from municipalities of La Montañita, Solita, Valparaíso, Solano, Milán and Florencia participated in a two-day workshop March 30th and 31st at the Public Health Club. Mercy Corps and CCCM defined participant selection criteria with the IDESAC focusing on community health workers (health promoters, auxiliary nurses from health centers, ambulance drivers, etc.).

Workshop No. 3 – Belén de los Andaquíes (Southern Region)

A total of 35 community members from the municipalities of San José del Fragua, Curillo, Albania, Morelia, Belén de los Andaquíes and Florencia participated in the two-day workshop March 30th and 31st at the local hospital. Mercy Corps and CCCM defined participant selection criteria with the IDESAC emphasizing community health workers (health promoters, auxiliary nurses from health centers, ambulance drivers, etc.). The feedback provided by the participants defining main challenges will be taken into account in future training events. Main challenges included:

- All participants recognized the importance of this workshop, but emphasized a need for follow-up training to continue strengthening the knowledge and skills acquired.
- Participants believe it is important to have additional people trained at the community level on landmine, UXO and conflict injury first aid. Many requested more events like the workshops so that new community members can participate.
- Participants expressed a need for added time to the two-day workshop for clarifications and reinforcement of the extensive information given.

During follow-up meetings with other departments where the First Aid workshops had already been held Health Institute of Norte de Santander representatives requested that Mercy Corps and CCCM organize at least two additional workshops with indigenous communities in Norte de Santander. The Health Institute is ready to partner with Mercy Corps and CCCM to prepare and implement First Aid workshops in heavily conflict-affected areas of the Catatumbo region. Mercy Corps will seek additional financial funding from government sources which, if obtained, will go towards continued trainings.

Result 1.2. Departments of Nariño and Caquetá have Rehabilitation Centers that provide integrated, efficient and high quality services to landmine survivors, victims of armed conflict and other persons with disabilities.

Hospital Maria Inmaculada



On March 3, 2011 the Hospital María Inmaculada, the Caquetá's Governor's Office, Mercy Corps and the CCCM celebrated the official inauguration of the Caquetá Rehabilitation Center. The event included the participation of important community members from Florencia, local authorities, PWD associations, landmine survivors and patient associations. All health providers in Florencia, including EPS's (Health Provider Enterprises) attended the event and toured the Rehabilitation Center facilities.

Regarding assistance to PWDs and landmine survivors, the Caquetá Rehabilitation Center provided physical therapy, speech therapy and other related services to 2,270 direct users between 1 January and 31 March 2011. According to the Hospital Manager and Rehabilitation Center staff, the considerable increase in the number of users¹ is due to newly expanded services with the opening of the new rehabilitation center. This increase can also be attributed to an intense promotional campaign to increase

rehabilitation service contracts with local hospitals and EPS's.

Hospital of Nariño

During this reporting period, the Nariño Hospital provided medical and rehabilitation services to approximately 2,300 users from the departments of Nariño, Cauca, and Putumayo. The Hospital reported a 75% increase in the provision of ophthalmic ultrasounds, and allowed patients to conveniently access this service in the city of Pasto. This has eliminated the need for time consuming and costly travel for landmine survivors to Cali.

Main Challenges:

- Staff at both hospitals feel the need for increased support and training for their Social Workers to effectively address patient needs and rights.
- Staff at both hospitals emphasized the need for specialized training on hydrotherapy for effective patient treatment.
- Staff at both hospitals and the María Inmaculada Hospital in particular, highlighted the need for more training on how to bill rehabilitation services to the State Solidarity and Guarantee Fund (FOSYGA), which provides funding for poor and vulnerable populations.

Result 1.3. Increased national capacity to provide quality prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) services, according to international standards.

Activity 1.3.1. Training of 30 P&O technicians from the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander through on-line distance learning courses.

The online P&O technician training is the cornerstone of an ambitious strategy to strengthen the P&O sector in Colombia. This project has proven more of a challenge than expected. Given the lack of implementation of P&O legislation, limited laboratory business management skills and varying levels of student capacity, Mercy Corps has had to design and implement several initiatives. These include:

A. Training Process – Accompaniment and follow-up with 30 online P&O students: As reported in the previous quarter, Mercy Corps has continued follow-up support to students enrolled in the activity through regular field meetings and online with Skype.

¹ The Caquetá's Rehabilitation reported assistance to 985 patients between 1 October and 31 December 2011. The actual level of assistance (2,270 patients) represent an increase of 230% from the past reporting period.

During the meetings, Mercy Corps followed up with P&O students regarding laboratory registration status and to clarify questions regarding the courses and the process certifying documents required by the Don Bosco University in El Salvador. Mercy Corps followed up on the document certification with support from the Bogotá team.

Unfortunately, three students were unable to continue their online P&O studies: two students, one from Pasto and one from Villavicencio, were unable to provide original certified copies of their diplomas and were therefore requested to discontinue their participation; and one participant from Cartagena suffered from health issues related to his disabilities and could not continue. Given that the initial group is already well advanced in their studies, and that not many technicians fulfill the UDB and SENA requirements, it was not possible to replace these three students.

B. Evaluation Module 1 of the online P&O training: As part of practical learning activities of the P&O training program, Mercy Corps designed a strategy to evaluate P&O students while actual patients could benefit from the prosthetic devices made by P&O student-participants. This innovative strategy created a multiplier effect of immediate service delivery together with capacity development. Activities included:

1. Mercy Corps staff, CCCM departmental coordinators and P&O technicians visited the Departmental Health Institutes of Antioquia, Cauca, Caquetá, Nariño and Norte de Santander. The main objective of the visits was to update local health authorities on the online P&O training progress, and to re-confirm their commitments to support the upcoming evaluation sessions. Important outcomes of these visits include:
 - a. Departmental health authorities are fully versed in the Online P&O training process;
 - b. Departmental Health Institutes will support program activities to locate, assess needs and refer patients to the P&O laboratories.
2. To assess patient capacity to use prosthetic devices, P&O training participants, together with rehabilitation centers and local health authorities, programmed patient evaluations in each department. A total of 78 patients were evaluated in Medellín, Florencia, Popayán, Toribío, Villavicencio, Pasto, Ricaurte, Cúcuta, Armenia, Bucaramanga, Cartagena, Neiva, Bogotá and Soacha. The main results of these evaluations include:
 - a. A total of 49 disabled persons with trans-tibia and trans-femoral amputations were selected as model patients for the P&O evaluation sessions. All 49 patients will receive their finished prosthesis as well as rehabilitation therapy in their respective departments (for a full list of beneficiaries, see Annex 1).
 - b. Medical Units in Soacha, Bogotá, Cartagena, Cúcuta, Medellín, Popayán, Armenia, Bucaramanga and Neiva, and the Rehabilitation Centers in Florencia and Pasto will support the prosthetic adaptation of patients through the provision of required physical therapy sessions.

C. Resolution 1319 – Good Practices Manual: Given that Resolution 1319² regulating P&O operations in Colombia will come into effect in April 2011, Mercy Corps led a campaign with P&O technicians and laboratories to register and ensure they understand the requirements specified in this resolution. Letters with information for dissemination of the normative procedures of this resolution were sent to each Health Institute in the departments of Antioquia, Bolívar, Caquetá, Cauca, Huila, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Quindío and Santander. The Health Institutes shared the letters with the Ministry of Social Protection, which has subsequently scheduled meetings to disseminate Resolution 1319 in Córdoba, Huila, San Andrés, Antioquia, Bolívar, Valle, Nariño, Amazonas, Santander, Atlántico, Meta and Chocó. Mercy Corps will continue lobbying the Ministry for similar meetings in Caquetá, Norte de Santander, Quindío and Risaralda during the coming quarter.

² Resolution 1319 is the norm that adopts good practices for the manufacture, elaboration and adaptation of prosthetic and orthotic devices. One of the main requirements of the norm is to register all existent workshops/laboratories, and to identify their actual state and needed improvement measures.

In Norte de Santander, Caquetá, Antioquia, Cauca and Nariño, Mercy Corps and P&O technicians held meetings with Health Institute representatives to share information about Resolution 1319. In general, Departmental Institute representatives were unaware of the Resolution and its requirements. This is a concern given that the Health Institutions are responsible for monitoring and control activities with laboratories and technicians regarding the Resolution. In this sense, Mercy Corps informed the Ministry of Social Protection, the National Institute for Medical Devices and Drugs Surveillance (INVIMA) of the following concerns:

- The application of Resolution 1319 will require strategic capacity building efforts to strengthen the knowledge and capability of local authorities and of the P&O technicians and their workshops.
- In order to fully apply the resolution, existing P&O workshops will have to design and implement a coherent plan of action that will take into consideration business management skills and capacity building for the development of agreements with rehabilitation centers. To date, workshops linked to the Landmines Program have had limited capacity to develop these actions.
- To equip each of the P&O workshops as established in Resolution 1319 will require \$10,000-\$40,000 USD depending upon the workshop. Mercy Corps and its P&O partners are concerned about the financial implications that the Resolution implies because the Resolution has gone into effect seemingly without serious thought on how the workshops will acquire the necessary funds to comply with this new legislation.

Objective 2: Landmine survivors and their families in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander have socio-economic integration alternatives according to their community context and capacities by the end of the Program (September 2011).

Result 2.2. 200 landmine survivors and their families accessed income generation initiatives that improved their quality of life.

Activity 2.2.1. Promoting access of 157 landmine survivors and their families to income generation initiatives.

This quarter, landmine survivors from the six priority departments continued their socio-economic integration processes, using the model developed by Mercy Corps, and based on information from the evaluation of socio-economic initiatives implemented by the CCCM.

➤ **Assess basic aptitudes and abilities of survivors and their families.**



In order to assess the current capacity of each beneficiary to establish, run and manage a business or access formal employment, Mercy Corps continued the evaluation process in the departments of Cauca and Norte de Santander. A total of 72 beneficiaries participated in the physical, psychological and occupational evaluations. The process was organized taking into consideration physical disabilities and the availability of local health facilities, as well as the needs of survivors and their families.

Cauca

In partnership with the Indigenous Councils of Toribío and Tacueyó, CCCM, the Cauca Health Secretariat and the Susana Lopez Municipal Hospital, Mercy Corps organized two events from March 9th to the 12th, for the assessment of health conditions and basic aptitudes and abilities of survivors. A total of 46 indigenous persons who have been physically affected by landmines, UXOs and other Explosive Remnants of War in both reservations participated in the medical

examinations performed by an interdisciplinary group composed of a General Physician, Psychologist, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, Nutritionist, Physical Therapist, Speech Therapist and P&O technician (for a full list of beneficiaries, see Annex 2).

Norte de Santander

As part of a joint follow-up strategy, Mercy Corps and the Mine Action Committee of Norte de Santander visited beneficiaries of the socio-economic integration program component between January 19th and 24th. These visits helped to uncover the need to resume the process of physical and occupational rehabilitation. Recurrent health problems were evidenced, including hearing and visual capacity deterioration. As a result, Mercy Corps, in partnership with the CCCM, the Governor's office, the Departmental Health Institute of Norte de Santander, the Erazmo Meoz Departmental Hospital and the Cardio-Neuro-Muscular Rehabilitation Center of Norte de Santander assessed the medical condition and occupational capacity of 26 landmine survivors. As stated, the purpose of these evaluations was to assess both the functional and occupational conditions of survivors and include them as formal patients in the Departmental Hospitals. These evaluations will enable the departmental authorities to follow up on the condition of survivors and provide them with suitable assistance.

All beneficiaries were evaluated by a group of professionals provided by the Erazmo Meoz Hospital, the Cardio-Neuro-Muscular Rehabilitation Center and the Governor's Office. The group of professionals included:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ✓ Physiatrist | ✓ Psychologist |
| ✓ Occupational Therapist | ✓ Nutritionist |
| ✓ Speech Therapist | ✓ Prosthetic and Orthotics Specialists |
| ✓ Social Worker | |

Beneficiaries finished their rehabilitation processes at the Cardio-Neuro-Muscular Rehabilitation Center of Norte de Santander as a pre-requisite for the disbursement of seed capital. Representatives from the Center verified that the survivors had progressed sufficiently in their rehabilitation and were ready to start socio-economic integration activities.

➤ **Provide training on entrepreneurship and productive practices.**

Due to changes in management at the National Learning Service (SENA), it was not possible for SENA to train beneficiaries in the department of Antioquia. However, Mercy Corps provided training for 33 other landmine survivors from the municipalities of Apartadó, Turbo, San Carlos, Montebello, La Unión, El Carmen de Viboral and Medellín. The training included the following themes:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ✓ Concepts of Entrepreneurship | ✓ Basic Business Management |
| ✓ Cash Flow | ✓ Budgets |
| ✓ Pricing | ✓ Products |
| ✓ Publicity | ✓ Merchandizing |
| ✓ Basic Business Competency | ✓ Creating added value for products |

➤ **Design and elaborate small business and investment plans with survivors and their families**

Following the entrepreneurship trainings, selected beneficiaries developed their business plans, which were reviewed by Mercy Corps and CCCM. After a careful revision, survivors and their families proceeded to obtain quotations for materials provided as part of the seed capital from potential input and equipment providers for their businesses.

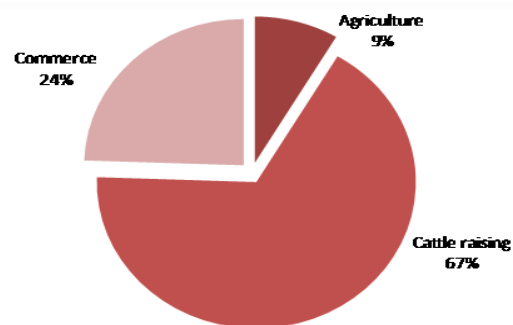
DEPARTMENT

APPROVED BUSINESS PLANS

Antioquia	33
Norte de Santander	3

➤ Distribution of seed capital

After the submission and review of business plans, Mercy Corps proceeded with the distribution of seed capital to 94 beneficiaries in the departments of Cauca, Caquetá, Meta, Nariño and Antioquia. Beneficiaries are located in 15 municipalities of the five departments. Following the trend in past quarters, the majority of beneficiaries opted for cattle-raising projects (67%), followed by small businesses and agriculture (for a full list of beneficiaries please refer to Annex 4).



Result 3.1. Department Committees for Integrated Mine Action information management mechanisms were strengthened and decision-making and planning processes support was given for integrated assistance to landmine survivors.

Activity 3.1.1 Supporting the formulation of Departmental Committees for Mine Action work plans and information management flowcharts.

Based on previous success supporting the Mine Action Departmental Committees of Norte de Santander and Nariño, Mercy Corps continued to identify mechanisms for integrated assistance to landmine and other war victims. This technical support was provided through two workshops in each department with the participation of Health Secretariats, Local Development Units, Social Promotion Units and Departmental Hospital Delegates. The purpose of these workshops was to better identify needs of survivors and the available support routes for assistance. It was clear for both departments that the main obstacle is lack of psychosocial assistance, which is urgently needed at the community level.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

During the reporting period, monitoring activities were carried out as an integrated process for program support. In order to appropriately organize Program documentation, the Mercy Corps M&E Specialist coordinated with all partners, including the regional coordinators from the Colombian Campaign against Landmines. The following outputs supported the monitoring of the Program, thereby facilitating progress towards objectives and outputs through the measurement of Leahy, Mission and Program indicators:

- ✓ 22 departmental monthly reports, including indicators, reported by department
- ✓ 12 weekly reports per department
- ✓ 1,046 photographs illustrating activities and Program progress
- ✓ Fully updated information system available for on-line updates by authorized users

Indicator charts are presented at the beginning of this report.